(a) whether Government are considering the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) norms for radio broadcasting;

(b) whether the guidelines for the same have been formulated, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the licence fee/entry fee for TV, print media and radio broadcasting is very high and the Government propose to abolish this fee; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (d)The Government had, on 24th July, 2003, constituted a Committee to make recommendations for radio broadcasting for Phase II. The terms of reference to the committee, inter alia included (i) making suggestions regarding extent of Foreign Equity Participation in private FM in order to make them economically more viable/sustainable while also keeping in mind regimes in other sectors and requirements of national security and (ii) assessment of a viable licence fee structure for the various cities (one time entry fee, fixed licence fees, revenue sharing, etc) based on clearly defined parameters. The committee has, on 17th November, 2003, submitted its report to the Government.

No Licence fee/entry fee for obtaining permission of uplinking TV channels is being charged by this Ministry. So far as the Print media is concerned, there is no licence fee/entry fee prescribed. However an application fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand only) is prescribed for proposals for foreign investment in print media. The license fee for radio has been determined by bids received in open auction.

Shortage of Nurses

*97. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of trained nurses in the country;

(b) the short term and long term plans made to meet this shortage; and

(c) the steps taken to stop the migration of nurses to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) So far 8.05 lakh nurses have been registered with various State Nursing Councils in India.There are 633 General Nursing and Midwifery Schools, 175 Basic B. Sc. (Nursing) and 24 M.Sc. (Nursing) colleges functioning in the country and about 25,000 to 30,000 nurses are qualifying every year. As such, there is no shortage of trained nurses in India. Government of India is also supporting the State Governments for establishing new schools and for upgradation of existing nursing educational institutions. Under the 10th Plan, Rs. 100.00 crores have been allocated for development of Nursing Services in various parts of the country.

Import of food supplements

*98. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of food supplements for weight loss and muscle building from abroad are flooding the market without any check; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to regulate import of these products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Under the Exim Policy, import of any item is governed as per General Notes regarding Import Policy and Import Licensing Notes under the relevant chapter of the ITC(HS) Classification of Export and Import Items. Import of edible/food products, domestic sale and manufacture of which are governed by Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 are subject to all the conditions contained in the Act. Import of these products have also to comply with the quality and packaging requirements as laid down in other relevant Acts. There also other enactments such as Drugs and cosmetics Act and Drugs and Magic Remedies (OA) Act which are administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are considering a proposal to prepare a Health Food supplement Bill on which no final decision has been taken.

Rates of Pay channels

†*99. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi